



Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

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## It's National Protect Your Identity Week Take Steps to Protect Yourself Says Bruning

**Note: Sound bites on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that this week is National Protect Your Identity Week. Almost 900 Nebraskans were victims of identity theft in 2006 according to the Federal Trade Commission.

“When an identity thief gains access to your personal information, they can use it to steal your money or commit criminal acts in your name,” said Bruning. “Repairing the damage can be a long and frustrating process, but my office offers a tool to help you repair your credit and restore your good name.”

The Identity Theft Repair Kit offers victims a step-by-step guide to repairing credit along with tips on how to protect your personal information. Getting your hands on one is easy. Contact our Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-727-6432 or download it from [www.ago.ne.gov](http://www.ago.ne.gov).

Here are some of the best tips from the kit:

### **Protect Yourself:**

- ✓ Never give personal information to someone you don't know unless you initiate the contact.
- ✓ Never leave mail in your mailbox overnight.
- ✓ Review a free copy of your credit report annually at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).
- ✓ Shred all documents that contain personal information, including credit card preapprovals.
- ✓ Never carry your Social Security number, birth certificate or passport with you, unless it's necessary.
- ✓ Only use Internet sites that are encrypted/secure.

### **Recovery:**

- ✓ File a police report and keep a copy to support your claims to credit bureaus, creditors, debt collectors or other companies.
- ✓ Immediately close all accounts under the same name of the account that was breached.
- ✓ Contact all three credit bureaus -- Equifax, Experian and TransUnion -- to review your credit report and place a fraud alert on your credit file. A fraud alert requires businesses to verify identification before transactions.
- ✓ Talk to the bank and other credit bureaus to fix specific problems with your bank accounts or credit reports.
- ✓ File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission online or by phone: [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) or 1-877-ID-THEFT.

If you think you've been a victim of identity theft, please contact our Consumer Protection Division toll-free at 1-800-727-6432 or file a complaint online at [www.ago.ne.gov](http://www.ago.ne.gov). For more information on identity theft, go to [www.protectyouridnow.org](http://www.protectyouridnow.org).

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